

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated September 26, 2003, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 8, and 31 and objected to Claims 2-7, 9-14, and 32-37 indicating that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Relying on the Examiner's office action, Applicants cancelled and amended claims to put this case in condition for allowance. In the latest office action, the Examiner, however, rejected claims that he previously indicated would be allowed.

Applicants have not cancelled or amended any claims to overcome the Examiner's prior art rejections. Applicants' amendments were made to expedite issuance of the allowed claims while reserving Applicants' rights to pursue the rejected claims in continuation applications. Because the Examiner has rejected claims that he previously indicated would be allowed, Applicants have decided to revive several claims that were previously canceled to expedite allowance.

Applicants add new Claims 38-40 which correspond to original Claims 1, 8, and 31. Applicants also amend Claims 2-7 to depend from new Claim 38 just as they depended from Claim 1 as originally filed. New Claim 38 and dependent Claims 2-7 are identical in substance to originally filed Claims 1-7.

Applicants also amend Claims 9-14 to depend from new Claim 39 just as they depended from Claim 8 as originally filed. New Claim 39 and dependent Claims 9-14 are identical in substance to originally filed Claims 8-14.

Applicants also amend Claims 32-37 to depend from new Claim 40 just as they depended from Claim 31 as originally filed. New Claim 40 and dependent Claim 32-37 are identical in substance to Claims 31-37 as originally filed.

Applicants have carefully reviewed this application in light of the Office Action mailed February 25, 2004. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the Application and respectfully request favorable action in this case

Claim Rejections Based on Su

The Examiner rejected Claims 2-7, 11-14, and 32-37 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,463,414 ("Su"). Using that same reference, the Examiner also rejects Claims 32-34 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Su, however, does not disclose, teach, or suggest Applicants' claimed invention because, as the Examiner acknowledges in the Office Action, *Su* does not disclose separate processors as recited in the claims.

Independent Claims 38, 39, and 40 require multiple processors. Both Claims 38 and 29 recite a "mixing processor" and a "first media transformation processor." Similarly, Claim 40 recites "the conferencing device comprising two or more processors operable to decode the input data streams to generate the input media information, to mix the input media information to generate output media information, and to encode the output media information to generate output data streams."

As the Examiner stated in the Office Action, "Su did not specifically disclose said processors being separate. . . ." (p. 5). While *Su* states "the present invention may be realized by any number of hardware components or software elements configured to perform the specified function" (col. 2, ll. 51-53), *Su* does not specify that the functions of decoders 230 and 234, mixer 238 and 240, and encoder 232 and 236 are assigned to separate processors. For at least this reason, *Su* does not disclose, teach, or suggest the multiple processor invention of Claims 38, 39, and 40. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of independent Claims 38, 39, and 40, as well as Claims 2-7, 9-14, and 32-37 which depend respectively from these independent claims.

Claim Rejections Based on Su and Leondires

The Examiner rejected Claims 5, 6, and 35-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Su* in view of U.S. Patent 5,841,763 ("*Leondires*"). For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent Claims 38, 39, and 40, *Leondires* does not disclose Applicants' claimed invention recited in dependent Claims 5, 6, and 35-56. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of dependent Claims 5, 6, and 35-36.

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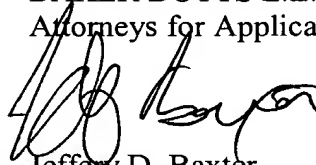
CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of pending Claims 2-7, 9-14, and 32-40. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicants believe no fees are due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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